

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Coating~~ A coating device for coating a metal strip ~~[[12]]~~ in a metal melt ~~[[14]]~~, comprising:

a shaft ~~[[16,18]]~~ rotatably supported in the metal melt ~~[[14]]~~ by means of a slide bearing ~~[[26₁,26₂]]~~, for guiding the metal strip ~~[[12]]~~, the slide bearing ~~[[26₁,26₂]]~~ being formed by:

a bearing housing ~~[[32]]~~, and

a bearing bushing ~~[[34]]~~ with a pair ~~[[36₁ - 36₄]]~~ of bearing surfaces ~~[[held]]~~ defined therein, ~~characterized in that~~ the bearing bushing ~~[[34]]~~ is being circumferentially closed and comprises including at least three bearing surfaces ~~[[38]]~~ forming several pairs ~~[[36₁ - 36₄]]~~ of bearing surfaces, such that the bearing bushing ~~[[34]]~~ is adapted to be set in several rotational positions in circumferential direction in the bearing housing ~~[[32]]~~, and

~~that a releasable bearing bushing fixing element [[40]] is provided by means of which the bearing bush [[34]] is adapted to be locked for locking the bearing bushing in each of the set of rotational positions with respect to the bearing housing [[32]].~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Coating~~ The coating device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bearing bushing ~~[[34]]~~ comprises several pairs ~~[[36₁ - 36₄]]~~ of bearing surfaces.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Coating~~ The coating device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bearing bushing ~~[[34]]~~ comprises four pairs ~~[[36₁ - 36₄]]~~ of bearing surfaces.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Coating~~ The coating device according to ~~one of claims 1-3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the bearing surfaces ~~[[38]]~~ are equally distributed over the circumference of the bearing bush and form an equilateral polygon.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Coating~~ The coating device according to ~~one of claims 1-4, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the bearing bushing ~~[[(34)]]~~ comprises at least two fixing grooves ~~[[(42₁ - 42₄)]]~~ at its outside into which the fixing element ~~[[(40)]]~~ is insertable for locking the bearing bushing.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Coating~~ The coating device according to ~~one of claims 1-5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein each pair ~~[[(36₁ - 36₄)]]~~ of bearing surfaces has a fixing groove ~~[[(42₁ - 42₄)]]~~ associated thereto.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Coating~~ The coating device according to ~~one of claims 1-6, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the bearing bushing ~~[[(34)]]~~ ~~consists~~ is constructed of ceramics.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Coating~~ The coating device according to ~~one of claims 1-7, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the shaft ~~forms~~ is a stabilizing shaft ~~[[(18)]]~~.

9. (New) A coating device for coating a metal strip in a melt, the device comprising:

a shaft for guiding the metal strip;

a bearing in which the shaft is rotatably received the bearing including:

5 a bearing housing,

a sleeve bushing rotatably received in the bushing housing, the sleeve bushing defining an interior bore with a plurality of bearing surfaces, selected pairs of the bearing surfaces being rotatable to orientations to engage the shaft in a direction of radial force, and

10 a mechanism for fixing the sleeve bushing to select the pair of bearing surfaces that engage the shaft.

10. (New) The coating device according to claim 9, wherein the sleeve bushing has a cylindrical outer surface and the inner bore has a polygonal cross-section.